

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER EXTENDING AND DEFINING
LIMITED PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
DISTRICT COURT OPERATIONS
AS A RESULT OF COVID-19

WHEREAS, Governor Lawrence Hogan has issued a "Proclamation and Declaration of State of Emergency and Existence of Catastrophic Health Emergency - COVID – 19";

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization ("WHO") and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") have declared the COVID-19 outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern";

WHEREAS, The Prince George's County Health Department has elevated its recommendations to be consistent with those of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and is recommending social distancing within Prince George's County, including limiting access to public buildings, recreational facilities and the courthouses located in the County;

WHEREAS, the global pandemic COVID-19 poses an imminent risk to the health, safety, and welfare of Prince George's County residents;

WHEREAS, the CDC and other public health authorities have advised taking precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and slow the spread of disease;

WHEREAS, on March 12th, 2020 this Court issued an Administrative Order Limiting Prince George's County District Court Operations as a Result of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, on March 13th, 2020 the Court of Appeals issued An Administrative Order on Statewide Closing of the Courts to the Public Due to the COVID-19 Emergency;

WHEREAS, on March 16th, 2020 the Court of Appeals issued an Administrative Order on Statewide Judiciary Restricted Operations Due to the COVID-19 Emergency;

WHEREAS, on March 25th, 2020 the Court of Appeals issued an Administrative Order Extending the Length of Statewide Judiciary Restricted Operations Due to the COVID-19 Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on April 14th, 2020 the Court of Appeals issued a Second Amended Administrative Order Expanding and Extending Statewide Judiciary Operations Due to the COVID-19 Emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is, on this 20th day of April 2020, by the District Court for Prince George's County, Maryland, hereby

ORDERED, that the Second Amended Administrative Order Expanding and Extending Statewide Judiciary Operations Due to the COVID-19 Emergency, issued by the Court of Appeals on April 14th,

2020, or any subsequent Administrative Order issued by the Court of Appeals, will govern Judiciary Operations, and the opening date and procedures; and it is further

ORDERED, that pursuant to the current Court of Appeals Administrative Order the District Court for Prince George's County in Upper Marlboro and Hyattsville shall remain restricted to emergency operations, except as otherwise described, and closed to the public with limited exceptions, through June 5th, 2020 (Re-Opening on June 8, 2020), pending further order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals; and it is further

ORDERED, that pursuant to subsection (s) of the Second Amended Administrative Order Expanding and Extending Statewide Judiciary Operations Due to the COVID-19 Emergency, the District Court for Prince George's County will "process and handle only the emergency and urgent matters listed in (i), (j), and (k) of that Administrative Order; and it is further

ORDERED, that at this time only essential District Court employees shall to report to work, as determined by their supervisors; and it is further

ORDERED, that the District Court Commissioner's Offices in the Upper Marlboro Courthouse, the Upper Marlboro Detention Center, and Courthouse in Hyattsville will continue operations as they have proceeded during the COVID-19 crisis, but may be reduced as is necessary; and it is further


ORDERED, that the District Court Commissioner's Offices shall continue to conduct business and process domestic violence protective orders, peace orders, extreme risk protective orders, petitions for emergency evaluations, initial appearances, and all other functions consistent with any applicable Administrative Order; and it is further

ORDERED, that preliminary hearings and bond reviews will occur remotely daily (Monday through Friday) from Courtroom 261 at 1:15 pm; and it is further

ORDERED, that the Office of the State's Attorney, the Office of the Public Defender, Department of Corrections, law enforcement, and members of the Private Bar that are entered, or plan to enter, into a matter where a Preliminary Hearing or Bond Review is to be held, must participate remotely; and it is further

ORDERED, that any interim or temporary domestic violence protective orders, peace orders, or extreme risk protective orders issued by the Prince George's County District Court remain in effect until further notice or action from this Court. However, any litigant in these matters that wishes to have an emergency hearing prior to the Court reopening, may file a motion requesting an emergency hearing which will be reviewed on an expedited basis.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Lisa A. Hall Johnson
Administrative Judge
District Court of Maryland
District V